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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

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Division Director

Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

January 31, 2006

Supervisor

ARZ

Mine Name: Sawtooth #1 Quarry
Operator Name: Sawtooth Stone, LLC

Permit number: M/003/067
Inspection Date: November 1, 2005
Time: 2:30 pm

Inspector(s): Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Other Participants: Bruce Mitchell, Operator, Dave Ryzak, Consultant

Mine Status: Active

Weather: Cold, cloudy and windy

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

Operator requested inspection to approve variance request.

Inspection Summary:

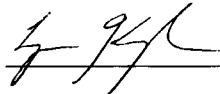
1. The operator has applied for a large mining operation for this site and is currently preparing a response to the Division's initial review of the LMO. Two areas of concern led to the request for this inspection, the soils variance for salvaging topsoil, and the drainage protection. The operator was preparing to close down for the winter.
3. The Division's review comments indicated a drainage in the vicinity of the permit area and asked for protection plans. This area is south of the current dump. Mr. Mitchell indicated that he will not be expanding the dump in this direction, therefore there should be no impacts from the LMO. The 'drainage' is described as a vegetated swell, dominated by non-riparian vegetation such as big sagebrush and basin wildrye and sheep fescue.
8. The soil survey provided in the LMO indicated that most of the area had significant soil resources (10-20 inches deep). However, it also indicated about 25% of the map unit was a very stony soil 0-6 inches thick over bedrock. Most of the area proposed for quarry operations is within this soil variant. While every effort is being made to salvage soils when available, most of the stony soil is being stockpiled as overburden. The operator indicated that it will be amended as necessary to provide a suitable plant growth medium.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

3. If the operator makes it clear in his LMO that the drainage will not be encroached upon, this would address the concern regarding protection of this resource.
8. It is recommended that the requested variance for salvaging topsoil be extended to the ridge area of the proposed quarry (approximately 200 feet to the northwest of the current working face). If mining continues beyond this point, the variance should be re-evaluated.

Photos were taken to document site conditions.

Inspector's Signature



Date: January 31, 2006

LK:jb

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